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be a general introduction to all science study. To carry out this plan the author has divided the subject into twenty-four chapters, which may be grouped as follows: ten devoted to physics, three to chemistry, seven to physical geography, and four to astronomy. Among the excellent features of the book are its clear, concise statements, simple illustrations, and a logical and systematic arrangement of a wide variety of topics. A pupil who thoroughly understands all that the book contains will certainly have a comprehensive idea of elementary science. Few of our schools take up all of these subjects in a one-year's course. In this country a longer and more serious study of each of the sciences is expected in each of the successive years of a high-school course.

Mr. Davis' book is quite a new departure from former text-books of physical geography in its method of treatment. Its central thought is "cause and consequence"; that is, what causes have produced the various elements that constitute man's physical environment and what have been the consequences of these elements on man's habits and development. This idea cannot be rigidly carried out, as Mr. Davis himself points out. For instance, the causes of atmospheric circulation are very complicated, and the causes of the shapes of the continents are unknown, while the consequences of such facts as the temperature of the sea bottom and its configuration are very remote.

The subject is treated in twelve chapters. Of these one is devoted to the earth as a whole, one to the atmosphere, one to the ocean, one to a general introduction, and the remaining eight are devoted to the land. This seems like a disproportionate amount of space given to the latter subject. This the author justifies for the reasons that the land is the home of the vast majority of the human race, that land forms, their genesis and history, have been most carefully studied and most clearly explained, and that a wide variety of these forms can be brought to the pupil's attention in almost every locality. Mr. Davis' sentences are very compact and require careful reading and very thoughtful attention from pupils, to whom the most of his ideas are probably unfamiliar. The book is quite free from technical terms. The terminology is simple and suggestive. The substitution of "downfold" and "upfold" for "anticline" and "syncline" is a case in point. The idea that each group of forms has a history which may be described as youthful, mature, old, decadent, is to most pupils and to many teachers new. Some parts of the book many teachers will wish to supplement with facts from other sources. In our judgment the usefulness of the book would be increased by a set of questions printed in the book for the guidance of pupils and teachers. An appendix of general and special references and an index add to the value of the book.

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History of English Literature. By REUBEN POST HALLECK, M.A. New York: American Book Company. Pp. 499. Price, \$1.25.

MR. HALLECK'S equipment for writing a history of English literature is the equipment of the teacher rather than of the scholar. He has earnestness, he has sympathy, he has that almost religious devotion to the subject which made the writings of the late Henry Morely good pabulum for the youthful mind. But he does not take, or if he takes he does not keep, the scholar's point of view. Perhaps this is not to be

regretted, for the teacher's point of view is the harder to maintain. At any rate, the result before us is a highly interesting and useful text, in which the author's own severe ideal—a book “to enable students to read English literature for themselves more intelligently”—is strenuously lived up to. Among the many good qualities of the work perhaps the most welcome is its straightforwardness. Mr. Halleck has an eye for the obvious. He has selected for treatment the most pertinent and telling facts of English literary history, and has treated them in a clear, direct, and positive way, with unfailing freshness and vigor. The same quality appears in a different guise in the simple and practical divisions, in the well-digested summaries, in the “literary map”—a capital device—which shows the distribution of famous authors over the face of England, and in the frequent illustrations.

The most serious fault of the book is its abrupt and jerky style. This is due in part to overuse of the short sentence and the dropping out of necessary connecting links, but it is due in part also to illogical or non-sequacious development of the thought. An egregious instance of the latter lies at the very threshold of the book, the opening sentence having no logical successor either in the same paragraph or in succeeding paragraphs. Occasionally the dislocation appears in single sentences, with pathetic effect, as in the following from p. 254: “By his indomitable will he [Pope] showed the world what careful workmanship could accomplish, and his devotion to his aged mother was remarkable.”

Since other editions of so usable a work are certain to be called for, the following minor blemishes may be marked for correction: P. 70, lines 6–9 are repeated in the following four lines; pp. 61, 75, the ornate figures were better away; p. 78, lines 3 and 4, the word *belt* occurs at the end of successive sentences; p. 311, the game referred to by Bentham is (I believe) *pushpin*, not *pushpins*.

The illustrations are well chosen and in most cases are well executed. I must take exception, however, to the angry and impatient Shakespeare on p. 154, who is upbraiding Mistress Anne (or so it seems to me) for that dinner is not ready betimes, and the Atrabismic portraits of Butler, Walton, and Southey, on pp. 187, 213, and 313. These pictures, if they are not positively unauthenticated, are at least open to historic doubts.

FRED NEWTON SCOTT

A School Chemistry. By JOHN WADDELL. The Macmillan Company, 1900.
\$0.90.

IN his interesting preface the author states that he has endeavored to make his book help the pupil in the discovery of new facts, enable him to see their connections, and show how facts lead to theory, and theory aids in investigation and in the discovery of further facts. So far as can be judged by inspection, his effort should be crowned by a very fair measure of success. The book is attractive in appearance, and the style pleasant. In such a work the selection of what to omit must always be a matter of the greatest difficulty. Admitting this, it would yet appear that a somewhat fuller treatment of the atmosphere would have been desirable, and also an account of the physical states and properties of matter, while the inclusion of a table of the metric and ordinary systems of weights and measures would certainly have been useful.

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